

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.297

Callsign G0MWT

October 1990

NEXT MEETING - The Annual General Meeting.

On Tuesday 2nd October we will hold the 1990 Annual General meeting to discuss the past, present and future of our Society.

The agenda will be :- Minutes of 1989 A.G.M.
Chairmans Report.
Secretary's Report.
Treasurers Report.
Membership-Secretary's Report.
Presidents Report.
Election of 1990/1991 Committee.
Matters arising.
Set subscription rate for coming year.
Any other business.

At the begining of the meeting we will hand out the voting forms for members to apportion their points for the new Annual Award. During the tea interval the votes will be counted and when we resume the winner will be announced and presented with the trophy.

The meeting will commence at 7.30pm at The Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford, and remember that at this meeting we draw the ticket for a free membership subscription.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

30 Sept.	HARLOW A.R. & ELECTRONICS RALLY - Harlow Sports Centre.
1 Oct.	ESSEX REPEATER GROUP A.G.M. - Danbury Village Hall, 8pm.
2 Oct.	CLUB MEETING - Annual General Meeting.
21 Oct.	DF EVENT - Mid-Essex Trophy.
6 Nov.	CLUB MEETING - Redistribution of Surplus Equipment.
4 Dec.	CLUB MEETING - Arrow Radio.
15 Dec.	CLUB SOCIAL - at The William Boosey, Hatfield Peverel.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Marconi and Microwaves - Brian G0BDS.

The history of Marconi and his achievements could and probably does fill a thousand pages in many books. However we have been lucky enough to have the life of this great man told to us by the Honorary Historian to the Marconi Co., Mr. Stan Wood. This particular lecture covered the period of time that Marconi along with others both in his team and from different companies involved themselves in the discovery and application of what were then known as Microwaves. Now of course we always think of Microwaves as frequencies in the Gigahertz range but then it was different.

In 1896 as an amateur he had used a Spark Gap Tx and Parabolic aerial on 25cms, but due to more interest in the longer wavelengths at much higher power, his research changed direction. Others, like Hertz himself, had also demonstrated transmissions in the ultra high frequency bands so the theory only needed expanding.

Soon HF transmissions were being used on 3660 and 14000 metres which made contact with Australia possible, and about this time the 'Beam System' using 15-30Mhz which had anti-fading was being ordered by the G.P.O. to take the worlds communications at a lower cost than the Telegraph cable system. All this radio communication caused the Government to set up the Cable & Wireless Co., and they invited Marconi to be on the Board, just to keep him quiet it seems, because he represented the only company that was both an operator and a manufacturer.

It was about now that his interest in better ship to ship communications made him think of his early experiments with his colleague Frankland, when in 1916-1919 they had used a 4 metre parabolic reflector with a spark or valve transmitter in their war research work.

Reflected R.F. energy which ultimately was to be used in Radar was known about during these experiments but not pursued.

From the mid 1930s Marconi had a series of heart attacks whilst in Italy so his research slowed which probably helped his rivals, however, his work paved the way in VHF communication for the navy and Radar which proved so important to our defences during WW2.

In 1937 after resuming research he was taken ill again and after seeing the Pope in a private audience died of a further heart attack whilst writing up his notes in his study. He was 64 years of age. The world radio stations held a two minutes silence as a mark of respect and a Memorial service was held in Chelmsford Cathedral for this great man, who without which we would not have the mighty Marconi Company and seen its influence on the rest of the world.

The lecture was illustrated by many original slides and Stan was as witty as ever, giving an evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, thank you Stan.

ANNUAL AWARD.

The promised nominations for this award are not included with your Newsletter, we think it will be better to hand them out at the meeting together with the voting slips for immediate response.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

For our August event Richard Witney, had volunteered to be the hidden station. When I took the DF kit to him earlier that week I included two large drums of wire - my intention being to give him a choice of colour, green or black.

Seven teams set out from Tiptree and soon converged on a wood near Rivenhall. It didn't take long to discover an aerial strung along one edge of the wood, and to find one end of it in a stubble field. Retracing my steps I followed the wire into the wood, through the wood and out the other side. Richard had used all the wire, even the emergency quarterwave was spliced in!

Finally I found two wires which had obviously been concealed. These were worth following, but it was some distance along the edge of a cornfield before I came to G4ICP/P hidden in a hedge. I was just in time, people were creeping in from all sides.

Results:-	Posn.	Name	Time	Posn.	Name	Time
	1	Dick Brocks	8.22	5	Alan Williams	8.31
	2	Peter Larbalestier	8.22.15	6	Peter Graves	8.33
	3	Daphne Mead	8.22.30	7	John Chandler	8.45
	4	Philip Cunningham	8.30			

Future Event.

Sunday 21st October, Mid Essex Trophy, Map OS 155, Bury St.Edmunds, Start 1.20pm Long Melford NGR 866467. Tea at Pat & Mike Hawkins QTH on the usual bring a bite basis. RSGB Qualifying rules apply.

CLUB CHRISTMAS SOCIAL.

This event will be held on 15th December at The William Boosey, Hatfield Peverel at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The Menu will be Starters, choice of Prawn Cocktail, Melon or Soup, followed by Roast Turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas Pudding/Mince pies, Coffee and a chocolate. The cost will be £8.25 per person, drinks of your choice extra. There is ample car parking available. Names and £2.00. per person (non-refundable deposit) to Gwyn G4FKH, our Secretary at the club meeting. It is advisable to make your booking as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Thank you for your good wishes for a speedy recovery after my ladder accident. Unfortunately it will take time for the bones to heal before I can even try to put foot to ground. I've never been disabled before and it has brought realisation of the consequences. That is to say, that all our plans/projects up until Christmas and possibly beyond are thrust aside including sailing, holidays, little jobs about the house etc., etc, apart from the additional burden on the family. If I'd damaged my spine or my head this could have been for life.

Think about it, make sure that you are not taking risks which would change your life and that of your family. For instance tie the ladder at the bottom as well as the top. If necessary cut flaps in the lawn to 'plant' the foot of the ladder. Don't work alone.

If you have read your RadCom you will have noted that KASHNV died when his leather safety harness broke. Since leather safety harnesses went out years ago, chances are, if you have one it's "dried out" and in danger of breaking. This goes for all items associated with climbing, DON'T USE OLD KIT! also BE AWARE - TAKE CARE! 73, Eric, GBADX.

REPEATER GB3CMS 10GHz.

Gwyn our Secretary has received a letter from the Secretary of the Essex Repeater Group regarding the above repeater. GB3CMS is operational but the RF output is 2mW instead of the proposed 100mW. The two local lads originally interested in this project have dropped out, if anybody is interested in assisting with this project would they please contact Dick Merrell, G4GUJ, 40,Fanton Walk, Shotgate, Nr.Wickford, SS11 8QT. Dick's letter will be on the notice board at the next meeting.

RSGB LIAISON.

Our Secretary has also been advised that Brian Gibbard, G0AZF is the new RSGB liaison officer for Essex. To communicate, Brian has approved including his location details:- 58 Norwich Avenue, Southend-on-sea, Essex. Tel: (0702)616691.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The October Committee Meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge (Marconi College Residence) at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 10th October. You are most welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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1,High Houses,
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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

DEWSBURY SUPA-TUTA in excellent condition, only 2 months old. £40
John Chandler, G0NVM. Tel: (0376)84649.

FOR SALE

ALTRON AQ6-20 Mini-Beam Antenna for 6-10-15-20 metres, in good condition. £60
Denis Whitbread, G4VGS. Tel: (0277)624177.